

The current election campaign is the most devious in U.S. history. The media continues to spread misinformation and Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry "documentary" days before the election is another example of "misinforming" the public and a prime reason the country is so divided.

Because Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge it is obligated by law to serve the public interest. All broadcasting companies have a responsibility to air news that is fair, accurate and balanced. Broadcasters cannot be allowed to be a propaganda machine for an individual, a party or a cause.

When large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something "created" we need to see news that is investigated.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. And while there may not be a precedent to address this issue, there needs to be an analysis of the mission statement of FCC's responsibilities to regulate the public airwaves and make a responsible decision--not a politically-motivated decision. After all, isn't the FCC an agency that protects the rights of the public?

So, let's show the public that you can and will protect our public airwaves.

Thank you.

Al Ainsworth